

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nakahara et al., U.S. Patent 5,967,905. Claim 1 has also been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takeda, U.S. Patent 5,976,033. Also, claims 2-4 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will note, claims 1-2 have been amended and claims 5-20 have been added to the present application in effort to cover all of the features of the present invention.

The present invention is directed to a golf club head which is structured for introducing a weight member into the golf club head for effectively adjusting the gravity point, the sweet spot, the moment of inertia and the like, of a golf club. The present invention is also concerned with the method for manufacturing such a golf club head.

The Nakahara et al. reference, U.S. Patent 5,967,905 is relied upon by the Examiner to show the use of a weight member added to a golf club head for the purpose of lowering the center of gravity of the golf club head. In carefully reviewing the subject matter of the Nakahara et al. reference, a number of distinctions and deficiencies can be found when the golf club head disclosed

therein is compared to present invention. First of all, the Nakahara et al. patent does not disclose the use of a socket which is integral with the sole of the golf club head for introducing a weight member thereto. In the reference patent, a plurality of "cutouts" within the weight member are introduced. In introducing the weight members into the cutouts, there appears to be no expansion of the side walls of the cutouts for securing the weight member in the cutouts and, in fact, it is necessary in the reference patent to utilize a sealing material which is poured into the gaps formed between the fitting hole and the weight member to insure that the weight member is fixed to the sole portion of the golf club head. This is to be distinguished from the present invention wherein, upon the application of a crushing force on the weight member, the walls of socket member are caused to expand slightly thereby compressing and fixing the weight member securely within the through-hole of the socket member. The Examiner, in referring to Figures 4(d) to 4(g) of the reference patent argues that these drawings show some expansion of the side walls of the sole plate of the golf club head. However, since no reference is made in the text concerning this fact, and since gaps can be created between the fitting hole and the weight member, it is strongly argued that Figures 4(d) to 4(g) cannot suggest any expansion of the cutout, side walls of the base plate as argued by the Examiner. Although method claim 8 fixes the weight member

to the sole portion of the golf club head by press-deforming the weight member, it appears that the press-forming operation is merely designed to fill the weight member into the respective cutout portions of the sole plate and not to apply sufficient pressure in the press-deforming of the weight member to deform the side walls of the cutout portions of the sole portion of the golf club head.

The Tekada reference does not appear at all to be relevant to the present invention. Thus, a hollow head body 16 of a long iron is provided with an outer shell formed with a through-hole 21. Another through-hole 35 is formed in projection 34 into which is pressed a tamper pin 36 to be anchored therein. As a result, the balanced weight 31 is securely fixed to the head body 16. Such a construction does not appear to have any particular relevance to the present invention.

As discussed hereinabove, the golf club head of the present invention contains a tubular socket which extends into the main body of the golf club head defining a through-hole which is adapted to accommodate a weight member. The prior art does not disclose such a socket member but rather merely an aperture like structure which does not even remotely resemble the socket member of the present invention. Furthermore, because of the application of pressure, the walls of the socket member are expanded to lock the weight member into the socket member. None of the prior art relied upon

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by the Examiner suggests this feature of the present invention. In addition, many of the dependent claims define and recite specific structural features of the socket member and the weight member which is not even remotely contemplated by the prior art relied upon by the Examiner. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

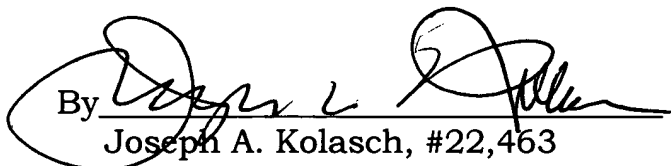
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17 and 1.136(a), the Applicant respectfully petition for three (3) months extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$1,020.00 is enclosed.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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By 
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Attachment(s) Marked up copy of specification
 Clean copy of specification